

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SCCT-01 /078 W

----- 060090

P 041004Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2300

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0034

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY, JO, EG

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 3 BOMBINGS OF EGYPTIAN AND JORDANIAN
EMBASSIES IN DAMASCUS

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 7:15 P.M. LOCAL TIME JANUARY 3 BOMBS
EXPLODED IN THE JORDANIAN AND EGYPTIAN EMBASSIES IN
DAMASCUS. SHOWING UNUSUAL CANDOR SARG HAS PUBLICLY
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ACKNOWLEDGED BOMBINGS IN STATEMENT CARRIED BY LOCAL

PRESS JANUARY 4 ATTRIBUTING EXPLOSIONS TO "UNKNOWN PERSONS." ANNOUNCEMENT ADDED ONLY THAT SYRIAN SECURITY FORCES ARE INVESTIGATING AUTHORSHIP.

2. NO PERSONAL INJURIES KNOWN TO HAVE OCCURRED. JORDANIAN OFFICES WERE MORE SEVERELY DAMAGED THAN EGYPTIAN. BOMB WAS PLACED INSIDE JORDANIAN BUILDING AND "LARGELY DESTROYED ITS INTERIOR." EMBASSY STAFF RESIDING ON TOP FLOOR AND IN BASEMENT APARTMENTS FORTUNATELY ESCAPED INJURY. BOMB AT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICES WAS APPARENTLY PLACED OUTSIDE DOOR WITH DAMAGE PRIMARILY TO DOOR AND WINDOWS. JUDGING BY DAMAGE, BOMBS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN OF SIZE SIMILAR TO THOSE USED IN PREVIOUS BOMBINGS OF U.S. PAVILION AT DAMASCUS FAIR, PROSPECTIVE USIS CENTER, AND TWO BRANCHES OF NATIONAL CASH REGISTER AND SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICE.

3. COMMENT: SELECTION OF THESE TWO ARAB EMBASSIES AND OF JANUARY 3 DATE, WHICH COINCIDES WITH OPENING OF QUADRIPARTITE CONFERENCE IN CAIRO, STRONGLY SUGGESTS AUTHORSHIP OF THESE BOMBINGS WAS PALESTINIAN "REJECTION FRONT" OR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS THEREOF, WITH POSSIBLE IRAQI BACKING. FACT THAT SARG GAVE STRAIGHTFORWARD PUBLICITY TO BOMBINGS, INSTEAD OF DESCRIBING THEM, AS IN PREVIOUS CASES, AS ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSIONS OF GAS BOTTLES, INDICATES SARG ON THIS OCCASION BELIEVES SYRIAN PUBLIC OPINION WILL CONDEMN SUCH ACTIONS AND SUPPORT SARG'S POLICY OF TRACKING DOWN AND PUNISHING ITS AUTHORS.
MURPHY

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